BLM-SURPRISE FIELD OFFICE

Bally Mountain Allotment # 01101

DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR DETERMINATIONS:

ACHIEVEMENT OF RANGELAND HEALTH STANDARDS, CONTRIBUTING FACTORS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION PRIORITIES

•••• THIS FORM DOCUMENTS, FOR THE INDICATED AREA: (**1**) DETERMINATIONS AND SUPPORTING RATIONALE REGARDING IF FUNDAMENTAL RANGELAND HEALTH CONDITIONS CITED IN 43 CFR 4180.1 EXIST IN THESE AREAS; (**2**) DETERMINATIONS, IN CASES WHERE ONE OR MORE CONDITIONS OF FUNDAMENTAL RANGELAND HEALTH DO NOT EXIST, REGARDING THE STANDARD (S) THAT IS (ARE) NOT ACHIEVED; (**3**) DETERMINATIONS, IN THOSE CASES WHERE ONE OF MORE STANDARDS ARE NOT ACHIEVED, REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTING FACTOR (S) THAT IS (ARE) PREVENTING STANDARD (S) ACHIEVEMENT OR IS (ARE) PREVENTING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS ITS (THEIR) ACHIEVEMENT; AND, (**4**) THE INFROMATION THAT WAS EXAMINED THAT SUPPORT THESE DETERMINATIONS. ••••

Indicate the date(s) or period the information review occurred: **8/03**

PART I – IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT AREA

A. Indicate area where these determinations and rationale apply:

1. • **Management Unit** (allotment or pasture – list name/no./acres): Bally Mountain Allotment # 01101, 1,475 public acres.

PART II – IDENTIFICATION OF INFORMATION REVIEWED

The following information (ie: monitoring, literature, personal communication, etc.) was considered to determine standards attainment and, if applicable, contributing factor(s) to their non-achievement and failure to make significant progress towards their achievement. (If more room is needed to document the type of information reviewed, label and attach sheets as needed.)

A. Information relevant to the Fallback **UPLAND SOILS, STANDARD 1:**

Fallback (43 CFR 4180.2):

Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and landform.

Indicator (s) Observed Information Reference (ie: identify the information source used by type and date)

Comments/Remarks: **Answers to the following were based on field data collected on the Bally Mountain Allotment in August of 2003, along with professional judgment, management, upland trend monitoring, and past observations on the Bally Mountain Allotment.**

Criteria

1. Is ground cover (vegetation, litter, and other types of ground cover, such as rock fragments) sufficient to protect sites from accelerated erosion? **Yes.**

2. Is evidence of wind and water erosion, such as rills and gullies, pedestalling, scour, or sheet erosion, and deposition of dunes either absent or, if present, does not exceed what is natural for the site? **Yes, on most sites.**

Pedestalling is occurring on some sites, however frost heaving and the shrinking/swelling of clay particles in the soil cause this. It is not abnormal for the site

3. Is vegetation vigorous and diverse in species composition and age class, and does it reflect the PNC or DPC for the site? **Yes, on most sites. Some sites that should support communities dominated by grasses, including bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber's needlegrass and other perennial grasses are currently supporting communities dominated by shrubs. Recovering these sites to PNC or DPC will require some form of disturbance to the shrub cover. Simply changing the livestock grazing system will have little (if any) impact on the sites. Overall, the vegetation in the allotment is vigorous and diverse.**

B. Information relevant to the Fallback **STREAM HEALTH, STANDARD 2:**

Fallback (43 CFR 4180.2):

Stream channel morphology (including but not limited to gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness and sinuosity) and functions are appropriate for the climate and landform.

Comments/Remarks: **Answers to the following were based on field data collected on the Bally Mountain Allotment in August of 2003, along with professional judgment, management, upland trend monitoring, and past observations on the Bally Mountain Allotment.**

Criteria

1. Are gravel bars and other coarse textured stream deposits successfully colonized and stabilized with woody riparian species? **N/A.**

2. Is streambank vegetation vigorous and diverse, mostly perennial, and holding/protecting banks during high streamflow events? **N/A.**

3. Does the stream water surface have a high degree of shading, resulting in cooler water in summer and reduced icing in winter? **N/A.**

4. Are portions of the primary floodplain frequently flooded (inundated every 1 to 5 years)? **N/A.**

C. Information relevant to Fallback **RIPARIAN AND WETLAND SITES, STANDARD 3**

Fallback (43 CFR 4180.2) and SUSANVILLE RAC (Standard 4):

Riparian and Wetland areas are in properly functioning condition.

Comments/Remarks: **Answers to the following were based on field data collected on the Bally Mountain Allotment in August of 2003, along with professional judgment, management, upland trend monitoring, and past observations on the Bally Mountain Allotment.**

Criteria

1. Is riparian vegetation sufficiently vigorous, mostly perennial, and sufficiently diverse in species composition, age class and life form to stabilize stream banks and shorelines? **Yes, the vegetation along the riparian area is vigorous, perennial and diverse. Capable of stabilizing the soils along riparian corridor.**

2. Is riparian vegetation and large woody debris well anchored and capable of withstanding high streamflow events? **Yes, the vegetation present is capable of withstanding high streamflow.**

3. Is accelerated erosion (as a result of human related activities) evident? **No.**

4. Are age class and structure of woody riparian and wetland vegetation appropriate for the site? **Wetland vegetation is well structured in age class and is appropriate for the site.**

D. Information relevant to Fallback **BIODIVERSITY STANDARD 4:**

Fallback (43 CFR 4180.2):

Healthy, productive, and diverse populations of native species exist and are maintained.

Indicator(s) Observed	Information Reference (ie: identify the information source used by type and date)
• plant vigor (production, mortality, decadence) •diversity of age classes •recruitment •community structure (layers)	
•exotic plants (or invaders)	Cheatgrass and Japanese Brome appear in only isolated patches, mostly adjacent to roads
•wildlife life forms present (obligate) •special status species	Mule deer utilize allotment.

Criteria

1. Do wildlife habitats include seral stages, vegetation structure, and patch size to promote diverse and viable wildlife populations? **Yes, observed light utilization provides the opportunity for a variety of wildlife species and populations.**

2. Are a variety of age classes present for most species? **Yes, most communities are healthy and reproductive, including low sagebrush, big sagebrush, and bitterbrush communities. Young plants are relatively common throughout the site. Sites with deep soil do have the potential for conversion to Western juniper in the future, but at this time juniper is not significantly affecting other species.**

3. Is vigor adequate to maintain desirable levels of plant and animal species to ensure reproduction and recruitment of plants and animals when favorable events occur? **Yes, plant communities have the vigor and seedbank necessary to take advantage of unusual events.**

4. Does the distribution of plant species and their habitats allow for reproduction and recovery from localized catastrophic events? **Yes, plant species and habitats are adequately distributed across the landscape to recover from wildfires, floods, insect infestation, etc.**

5. Are natural disturbances, such as fire, evident, but not catastrophic? **There have been no recent fires on the allotment.**

6. Are non-native plant and animal species present at acceptable levels? **Yes, there are no known, large-scale infestations of any noxious weeds on the allotment. Cheatgrass and Japanese Brome exist in some communities, however, it has not become a dominant part of any known community, and native species are successfully competing with cheatgrass in these areas. Cheatgrass is mostly predominant within a few feet of the existing roads.**

7. Are habitat areas sufficient to support diverse, viable, and desired populations, and are they adequately connected with other similar habitat areas? **Yes, the potential exists in upland areas to adequately support well connected, diverse, viable, and desired populations. Sagebrush communities are generally healthy, large, and continuous. Juniper range expansion into sagebrush communities currently affects only a very small portion of the allotment.**

8. Is adequate organic matter (litter and standing dead plant material) present for site protection and decomposition to replenish soil nutrients and maintain soil health? **Yes. There is sufficient litter and standing dead material to replenish soil nutrients and maintain soil health on most sites. Light utilization from livestock grazing creates abundant standing dead matter and litter.**

E. Information relevant to Fallback **WATER QUALITY, STANDARD 5:**

Fallback (43 CFR 4180.2)

At a minimum, water quality is adequate for desired beneficial use of water resources on public lands.

Comments/Remarks: **Answers to the following were based on field data collected on the Bally Mountain Allotment in August of 2003, along with professional judgment, management, upland trend monitoring, and past observations on the Bally Mountain Allotment.**

Water quality on the Bally Mountain allotment that consists of riparian areas is adequate for the desired beneficial uses, which are agricultural purposes.

PART III – SUMMARY OF STANDARD ACHIEVEMENT DETERMINATION AND RATIONALE

A. DETERMINATION ON STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT

As of the date of the completion of this form, an examination of the information listed in Part II and recent field visits, if applicable, indicate the following with regard to standards achievement for the area identified in Part I:

Standard	Determination of Standard Achievement (check appropriate box for each standard)			
Upland Soils	■ Met	☐ Not met but progressing towards	☐ Not met and not progressing towards	☐ N/A
Stream Health	☐ Met	☐ Not met but progressing towards	☐ Not met and not progressing towards	■ N/A*
***** Streams are present on private land.				
Riparian/Wetland	■ Met	☐ Not met but progressing towards	☐ Not met and not progressing towards	☐ N/A
Biodiversity	■ Met	☐ Not met but progressing towards	☐ Not met and not progressing towards	☐ N/A
Water Quality	■ Met	☐ Not met but progressing towards	☐ Not met and not progressing towards	☐ N/A

B. RATIONALE SUPPORTING STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT DETERMINATION (if additional room is needed, attach and label additional sheets):

Interpretation of resource data along with observations by multi-disciplinary staff during the last several years was used in determining the above "Standards Achievement".

PART IV – FOR THOSE STANDARDS NOT ACHIEVED, SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTING FACTOR (S)

DETERMINATION AND SUPPORTING RATIONALE

A. DETERMINATION OF CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

As of the date of the completion of this form, an examination of the information listed in Part II and recent field visits, if applicable, indicate that the following are contributing factors for failing to achieve the standards as indicated in Part III for the area identified in Part I:

Non-achieved Standard(s) (from Part III): **None**

FLPMA Principal or Major Uses	Information Reference (what data was reviewed – type and information date)
☐ Domestic Livestock Grazing	☐ actual grazing use
	☐ grazing "licenses"
	☐ utilization records
	☐ field notes/photographs
	☐ other _____
☐ Fish and Wildlife Development and Utilization	☐ utilization
☐ Mineral Exploration and Development	☐ road building
☐ Rights-of-Way	☐ _____

☐ Outdoor Recreation ☐ road building
☐ Timber Production ☐
_____

Other Events or Circumstances Considered	Information Reference (what data was reviewed – type and information date)
☐ Wild Horse and Burro use	☐ census/distribution data
	☐ other_____
☐ exotic plant presence	Cheatgrass and Japanese brome has become established in small areas but native species are successfully competing with non-natives in this area.
☐ insect impacts	
☐ abnormal fire frequency or lack of fire	
☐ abnormal climatic events	The last several years have been drought years, although 2003 was close to normal for precipitation.
☐ other	_____

CONTRIBUTING FACTOR (S) LIST:

Roads have had an impact on the allotment by increasing the spread of invasives such as cheatgrass and Japanese brome.

B. RATIONALE FOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR DETERMINATION

PART V – BLM STAFF WHO REVIEWED THE INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDED PRIORITY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROPRIATE ACTION TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE STANDARD (S).

The following staff have participated in examining the information listed in Part II and in making the standard(s) achievement and contributing factor determination(s).

Amy Shepperson, Rangeland Management Specialist
Jake Bonham, Wildlife Tech.
Mike Landrum, Hydrologist

SIGNATURES:	TITLES:
_____	Rangeland Management Specialist
_____	Wildlife Tech.
_____	Hydrologist

In the cases where the standards are not achieved and after considering all relevant information, we recommend that the priority for developing and implementing appropriate action to achieve standards in the area identified in Part I be (check one):

☐ high ☐ medium ☐ low

We base our recommendation of the following ratings of the following factors:

Biological/Physical

Severity of resource impacts resulting from non-achievement of the standard: ☐ high ☐ medium ☐ low
Size of affected area- _____ Acres
Ability to arrest further degradation- ☐ easily done ☐ unknown ☐ difficult
Other:

Administrative

Proportion of federal land in the allotment- ☐ high ☐ medium ☐ low
Pending administrative actions (permit lease renewal/transfer, etc.) ☐ pending ☐ not pending until FY _____
Other:

Social

Anticipated cooperation of the permittee/lessee- ☐ expected ☐ not expected ☐ unknown
Legal requirements ☐ compelling ☐ not compelling
Other:

PART VI – DOCUMENTATION OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF PERMITEES, STATE AGENCIES AND THE INTERESTED PUBLIC IN MAKING STANDARDS CONFORMANCE DETERMINATION AND CONTRIBUTING FACTORS DETERMINATION.

Indicate the occurrence of public participation (ie: permittee, interested public, other Federal or State/local agency), or opportunities for public participation that pertains to the review of standards achievement and contributing factors (who, when, and conversation or meeting summary): **The documentation form was completed by BLM staff.**

PART VII – AUTHORIZED OFFICER'S DETERMINATION AND PRIORITY FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

I have reviewed and concur with the determinations and supporting rationale regarding the achievement or lack thereof of rangeland health standards documented herein and, in the cases where standards are not achieved, the determination and rationale regarding the contributing factor(s) for failure to achieve the standards. I have determined that the priority for developing and implementing appropriate action to achieve significant progress to achieve standards for the area identified in Part I is (check one)

☐ high ☐ medium ☐ low

Staff is directed to develop appropriate action for my consideration and implementation in accordance with this priority.

_____ _____

SURPRISE FIELD MANAGER DATE

COMMENTS: